CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE

Digest

RAY LEWIS
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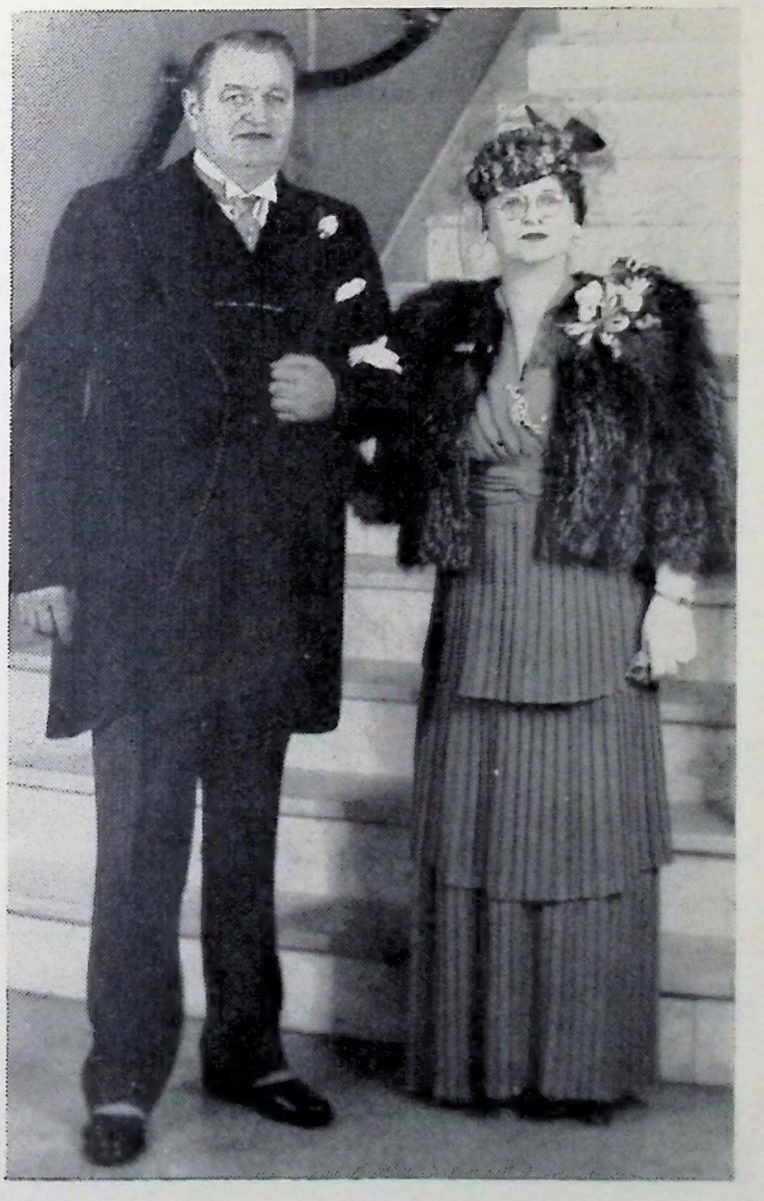
Marks' 50th Wedding Anniversary



MR. AND MRS. ERNIE MARKS

Last surviving members of the famous Mark's Brothers Theatrical Company, who on Tues., July 24th celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, receiving congratulations from Federal, Provincial, and Municipal government officials, as well as members of the film trade, and other friends from the U.S. and in Canada.

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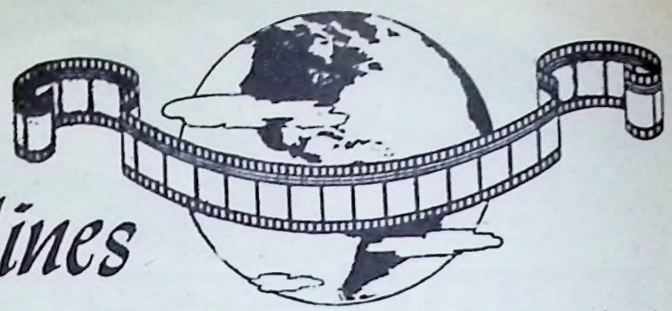

Crawley cuts the price of 16MM prints because of increased volume of business.

•

Visitors to Toronto from Ottawa were Hyman Bessin and Casey Swedlove who have acquired the Glebe Theatre, Ottawa, formerly operated by Odeon.

•

National Film Board, Winnipeg, following meeting with exhibitors assoc. decide not to sponsor free outdoor film shows.

•

Paul Nathanson visited his farm Maple Crest at Maple Ont. and left for Europe last week.

•

Fassio of Montreal, circuit operator to operate Poster Exchange in Quebec, with Peter Lambert, formerly of Saro.

•

Vagabond King advance sale predicts largest week for Melody Fair, Dufferin Park, Toronto.

•

Mr. & Mrs. Budd Rogers holidaying at St. Andrews-On-Sea N.B.

•

Sir Arthur Jarratt, British Lion, states Herbert Wilcox not only produces box-office winners but sells them. "It's a pleasure" states Sir Arthur.

•

Projectionists — Local 345 Int. Alliance Theatre Employees' Union, Vancouver, B.C., ask for 50 cent raise per hour. Present scale on 30 to 36 hour schedule per week at rate of $2 to $2.15 per hour.

•

The 11th Annual Digest Showmanship Contest is now open and will close Aug. 31st.

•

Fabiola, which Jules Levy had dubbed in English from its original Italian language, is playing the Famous Players Victoria Theatre, downtown in Toronto, having previously had its premiere showing at the Towne Cinema. Distribution through International in Canada.

•

Canadian Dept. of Transport rules it is not illegal to set up closed circuit relay system piping TV programs from master antena to homes equipped with TV receivers.

•

London, Ont. launches community project in construction of TV Tower to pick up programs from Detroit, Buffalo, Cleveland. Stations to be offered via cable to TV set owners on a pay-monthly fee basis.

SHOWMEN! SEND YOUR ENTRIES IN NOW!

RAY PRESENTS

THERE is a saying: When In Doubt Do Nothing, but doing nothing presents a condition which inspires but two words "nothing doing."

There is no time, nor place on earth, in the heavens, or under the waters of the earth in which there is "nothing doing."

There is always something doing every minute of the time in which we are awake, there is always something doing every minute of the time in which we are asleep. I do not know what is Doing when we are dead, not having ever been dead while awake or asleep, or in that condition which may be described as good and dead.

However, it occurs to me, that it might be more profitable to Do something, than Do nothing, even when we are in doubt, therefore, may I suggest, being a showman among showmen, that for us there is a much better slogan than "When In Doubt Do Nothing," and this one which I suggest is, "When In Doubt, Talk About Yourself."

HAVING surmounted this obstacle, I take pleasure in presenting to you my friendly readers, two letters which I have recently received, one is from P. A. Williams, Theatrical Sales Manager of The March of Time (produced by Time Inc.). It reads:

July 23, 1951.

"Dear Ray:

"We here at The March of Time were thrilled by your marvelous tribute to us.

"We are making up copies for all of our staff to have.

Cordially yours,

Phil A. Williams."

THANKS Phil, it is good to know that in The March of Time, our friends remember to remember us kindly. The other letter is from Norman H. Moray, vice-president, Warner Bros. Pictures.

July 31st, 1951.

"My dear Ray:

"Long time no see but I hear of you and read your magazine quite frequently.

"In the July 21st issue in your column 'Ray Presents' you gave us a very wonderful review on our Bugs Bunny cartoon titled French Rarebit. It isn't often that short subjects are singled out for such praise, in as much as it is generally the features that get all the gravy.

"With your permission, I would like to reproduce this article and send it out to all the exhibitors in the United States. My very warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Norman H. Moray."

THANK you Norman Moray. I wish you could have been at the University Theatre(Famous Players) and heard and felt the public reaction to French Rarebit, your Company's short. First, you could hear a ripple of laughter all over the theatre when Bugs Bunny was flashed on the screen. All through this short the audience was laughing at the clever antics of Bugs Bunny, and at the finale there was considerable applause, much more than we hear, on occasion, for a feature picture.

I saw another Warner Bros. short subject with an Italian background, which introduced the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it was a rare treat, clever, interesting and most amusing. These shorts with their continental backgrounds should have an International as well as national appeal.

It has been said that "good stuff comes in small packages." Give me 1000 feet packed with entertainment, and I will exchange it, as a savoury appetizer, for a mile of footage which stretches its length to achieve the same results, but many times with less success. As I previously stated, "When In Doubt, Talk About Yourself," but talk sense.

ON our front page cover, there is a photograph of Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Marks of Oshawa. This photograph was taken several years ago, on the occasion of the wedding of their son Ernie Marks Jr. The Marks celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, and there was a family dinner at home in Oshawa to mark the event. However, since Ernie Marks is one of Oshawa's best known citizens, the Anniversary was considered a public event in Oshawa. Ernie is the owner of the Marks' Theatre in Oshawa, but is no longer active in its operation, this theatre is now being booked through Independent Theatre Services, with its head office in Toronto, and with which booking concern Bruce McLeod and Harold Pfaff are associated.

The Marks belong to a well-known theatrical family, and many years ago, I remember the Marks' Repertoire Company which toured in Canada, presenting stage shows, with the family members, selling tickets, taking tickets, doing advance work and acting in the show. The Marks' Brothers Stock Dramatic Company not only toured throughout Ontario, but travelled across Canada, sometimes doing one-night stands and, also, remaining in some towns several weeks, where they presented a series of plays.

MR. & MRS. ERNIE MARKS played leads, Mrs. Marks starring as Kitty Reynolds, all before they decided to retire and settle down in Oshawa. The Marks lost one son in World War II, Ted, who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. At the family Golden Wedding Dinner were Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Marks Jr., their son and Mrs. Frank J. McGarry their daughter. Jack Marks, another son makes his home at Christie Lake, but came in for the celebration. There are nine grandchildren, five are the children of Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Marks Jr. and four the children of Mr. & Mrs. McGarry.

Ernie Sr. is the last surviving member of that famous Marks Brothers family, which became so well-known in the Canadian field of entertainment. There were seven brothers and two daughters. Thomas Marks, the father of these nine children, was the son of an Irish immigrant, who built his home in Lanark Country, which at that time was a virginal forest. Thomas was a powerful man, standing six feet one in his stocking feet. He married Margaret Farrell, of Castle Barr, County Mayo, Ireland. She was a cousin of George Stephen, first Baron Mount Stephen, who was the first president of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

MARGARET FARRELL MARKS gave her husband seven fine sons and two daughters, Robert, Joseph, Thomas, Ernie, Alex, John and McIntyre, and Olivia and Nellie. Their home on the shores of Christie Lake was a symbol of good cheer and hospitality, and the rafters sang back the songs and re-echoed the music with which this home was filled, for Margaret Farrell brought with her from Ireland that Celtic strain of poetry, drama and song.

Robert Marks, the elder son, was responsible for the theatrical ventures of the family, after having attended a show given by a travelling magician and ventriloquist. Robert was intrigued by the work of King Kennedy and thought that he had a talent which was being wasted through a lack of showmanship. In an interview which he gave to a press reporter years ago, we can learn how the idea of show business began to germinate in his mind. "One night," he said, "in company with several young men, I went to the village of Maberly to see an entertainment. After the show, I asked the little company what they would

(Continued on Page 5)

DIGEST SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST ENDS AUGUST 31st

Toronto and District

BILL PRESS

After its recent run of one week at the Capitol and Tivoli Theatres, the heavyweight championship fight film, showing the defeat of Titleholder Sugar Ray Robinson and Randy Turpin of England (Astral Films) played nine B. & F. theatres and the downtown Biltmore for an immediate transferred run.

The popularity of this picture brought back memories of the success of fight films in the pre-war days.

Gerry Collins has been confirmed as permanent manager of Loew's Uptown Theatre, Toronto, following the sudden and untimely death of Stan Gosnell who had been the popular and efficient director there since the Uptown had become a Loew unit 11 years ago.

Collins had been in charge of publicity for both Loew's and the Uptown in Toronto prior to taking over the reins on a temporary basis in June.

Among the expected attractions at the time of the Canadian National Exhibition are the vaudeville bill, topped by The Ink Spots, at the Uptown Theatre, commencing Aug. 27, and a promised Canadian premiere of "Show Boat" at Loew's.

A stage presentation of "Show Boat" is also mooted for Melody Fair, the tent show at Dufferin Park race track.

Special pictures can be expected at all Toronto first-run houses around Labor Day as a start for the fall season.

Al Iscover, hustling sales representative of Paramount Film Service Limited, Toronto, made a recent business round-up in Eastern Ontario cities and towns.

Mrs. Odette Churchill, the intrepid Englishwoman whose exploits as an underground leader in France in the last war formed the basis for the British feature "Odette," will be in Toronto at the time of the Canadian National Exhibition.

Mrs. Churchill will be in charge of a party of 50 British girls for a Canadian tour as guests of the industrialist, Garfield Weston. A similalr party of 50 Canadian girlls is visiting Britain.

The National Committee, Motion Picture Exhibitors Associations of Canada, under the chairmanship of Morris Stein, will be holding its third annual meeting at the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, at the same time as the conferences of the Motion Picture Industry Council, Sept. 24-26, for which Chairman J. J. Fitzgibbons will preside.

A stunt off the beaten path was carried out for the engagement of "The Frogmen" at the Imperial Theatre, Toronto, when bottles containing passes were let loose in the nearby waters for the benefit of the odd sailor or angler.

Winner among 4,000 competitors for the title of "Festival of Britain Girl," Judy Breen, 20 a London stenographer, was a special visitor in Toronto early in August on her world air tour, one of the contest prizes. The J. Arthur Rank Organization co-operated in the arrangements .

Miss Breen is also making appearances at Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver before flying to Australia, thence to Asiatic and European countries, arriving in London Aug. 28.

Prairie News

By BRUCE PEACOCK

Newest outdoor theatre in Regina is the Sunset drive-in, an independent theatre, operating adjacent to the Famous Players' Queen City drive-in.

Built at a cost of $125,000, the theatre, on e 30-acre site, has ramp accommodation for 525 cars and space for an additional 212 cars. Dual-head, in-car speakers are used.

"The House on Telegraph Hill" got an unexpected plug in the Saskatoon, Sask., Star-Phoenix recently. A three-column cut showed a parked car that had been rammed by another auto and shoved up onto the street. Accident occurred in front of the Tivoli Theatre and the newspaper picture showed the full marquee of the theatre.

Built in record time, a new theatre is now operating at Waskesiu, summer resort north of Prince Albert, Sask. Owner and manager is William Zaparaniuk, of Prince Albert, who started construction in June. Theatre, with a balcony, has a seating capacity of 350, latest type of sound and projection equipment, new theatre seats and a sloping floor. Three features a night and Sunday midnight shows are presented.

The town of Raymond, Alta., is going to use its opera house as a school. The board of utilities commissioners announced that the town will borrow $175,000 to buy the opera house and convert it to school use.

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Dore Schary MGM Vice President Speaks On TV

"It is time we in the motion picture industry stopped worrying about TV; it is time TV started worrying about us," Dore Schary, MGM vice-president in charge of production told 180 members of the San Francisco Variety Club and members of the press in San Francisco. "The shoe is now on the other foot," he added.

Mr. Schary pointed out that the top box office business of such recently released pictures as "The Great Caruso," "Father's Little Dividend," "Go For Broke" and the potential of such forthcoming films as "Show Boat" and "Quo Vadis" verifies his viewpoint. TV cannot compete with such product, he said.

"The motion picture," Schary declared, "has many advantages over TV in its technical superiority and color. More pictures will be made in color. TV is a great medium. It is unquestionably here to stay, but it is at least five years away from perfection, and in the meantime Hollywood will continue to improve its position."

Fredric March Set "Death Of A Salesman"

Two-time Academy Award winner Frederic March has been given Hollywood's most coveted role of the year, the part of Willie Loman in Death of A Salesman, the hit Broadway play which the Stanley Kramer Company will film for Columbia.

The role brings March to Hollywood following an absence of more than two years.

SHOWMEN! SEND YOUR ENTRIES IN NOW!

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

take for a week's engagement. They would not sell a week, but offered me a half interest at a low price. I took them up. I knew a number of good villages in the locality, and with my father's democrat and horses, I started out on the road with the company. I made money right from the start, and the next season I was in control of the company myself. That was thirty years ago, and I was nineteen years of age at the time. I find the theatrical business very fascinating and satisfying. Twice I have retired, but I got lonesome and started out again. Three of my brothers are out with Marks Brothers Companies at the present, Joe, Tom and Ernie and they are all successful."

FOR a number of years Five Marks' Brothers Companies were playing and touring at the same time, presenting Under Two Flags, Within The Law, Black Flag, Kathleen Mavourneen, Tess Of The Storm Country, Italian's Revenge, Third Degree and other plays of this kind. The companies were all successful, and in some spots played Summer Stock for several months. It was customary to introduce some vaudeville between the acts of a play, and it was not unusual to have the villain sing a ballad, providing he had a voice to sing.

Ernie had a real flair for Showmanship, and produced Happy Hooligan, a comic strip character, taking it across Canada as a Road Show. It was a big success. Tom Marks was equally successful with his Road Show of Bringing Up Father, a musical-comedy based on the George McManus comic strip.

It was then that the news of The Great Train Robbery, a Motion Picture, began to be talked about as one of the wonders of that age, and Ernie Marks introduced the kaleidoscope in his show, the first of the motion picture machines, and presented The Great Train Robbery.

SHOW business was born and bred into the family of the Marks Brothers, four of them who married their own leading ladies, and some of the children of these marriages, also went on the stage.

In describing the theatrical ventures of the Marks Brothers, perhaps it can best be explained by recalling to memory the Gus Sun Circuit. There was the big Orpheum Circiut in those days, with its two-a-day vaudeville, the Pantages and the Sullivan and Considine Circuits, with theatres in the larger cities and towns, but the Gus Sun Circuit was what we, in Vaudeville, called the hide-away circuit, with theatres mostly in the smaller cities and towns and which played four, five shows a day. "Strictly from hunger," we called the Gus Sun Circuit but of use in filling in time, in waiting for bookings on the big Time.

The Marks Brothers stayed with the smaller cities and larger towns in all their fifty years of theatrical enterprise, they remained away from Toronto, Montreal, but played in Hamilton, in London and Guelph, Kitchener, Startford, Galt, Barrie, Owen Sound, Oshawa, Collingwood, which became known as good little show towns with appreciative audiences.

THE old homestead at Christie Lake is a gathering-spot for the members of the family, all of whom have cottages there, with Jack Marks, one of Ernie's sons in charge of the Christie Lake property. It was at Christie Lake that plans for the theatrical tours were discussed, where the companies rehearsed.

Today, Ernie Marks, who in 1931 was Mayor of Oshawa, and in 1934 Conservative candidate for the Ontario Legislature, is the only remaining member of that first Marks' Brothers Theatrical ventures, and it was with reluctance that he and his wife relinquished the operation of the Marks Theatre, but after all, fifty years and more is a healthy number of years to be active in any enterprise, and so we join with the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Marks, offering congratulations on their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, and wishing for them and for their family many, many happy family celebrations and reunions.

THE September issue of Bus And Truck Transport Magazine, has a feature story the caption of which is, "The Show Must Go On." There is a picture of a Mavety Truck, and an added caption, "And a specialized Truck Fleet Sees That It Does," with a further picture of a conveyor system through which the heavy cans of film are more easily handled. The story is by Jack Colgan, Associate Editor. It relates that the Mavety organization is the only one of its kind in Ontario, providing a pick-up and delivery service for features, cartoons, and all other film designated for motion picture theatre exhibition. With headquarters in the Film Bldg., trucks are despatched to the theatres operating in the city area. Five routes are maintained to out-of-town points, reaching as far West as Windsor, to the Ottawa Valley in the East. A single unit stationed at Kingston, handles the Ottawa Valley. A special franchise is required for these trips.

Charles Mavety, who started this film service delivery about thirty years ago, and who operates the well-known Circle M. Ranch at Kleinburg, Ont., recently sold the Mavety Film Service to George Altman, the latter who had been for several years in the field of film distribution.

GEORGE ALTMAN is applying his showmanship ideas to the most practical and efficient manner in which film can be handled, the conveyor system moves the incoming film from the loading platform to the freight elevator, for the average weight of a feature length film is from eighty to ninety pounds in the can. When there is only one print available for a two-theatre date, this complicates matters for Mavety Film Service, but the Mavety Service is in operation, and reel by reel, from one theatre to the other the Show goes on without any break in the show's presentation.

News Reels, also, require a rush service, which involves rushing negatives to laboratories for prints, rushing prints to the Censor Board, and then rushing these for exhibition.

There is a special preview film delivery service, and an all-night service for emergency calls, covering non-delivery of prints, substitutions where necessary, everything to keep the wheels moving under the cans of film, and the cans unreeling at the theatres so that the show goes on.

ALL of the Mavety Film Delivery truck-drivers are enrolled in special insurance groups, with bonuses paid for accident-free records. It was last summer that George Altman introduced the $1,000 bonus for drivers who had no accidents, and made no mistakes in respect to services, and this $1,000 pot of gold is offered to the drivers as an incentive to reduce insurance premiums.

Whenever you meet George Altman, he is working on some idea to improve his service, a service which is of such importance to both distribution and exhibition, for gone are the days when exhibitors picked up their film for their shows, which they generally did not fail to do, but what about the exhibitor who was playing the picture the following three days, or the following week?

Human nature being as it is, the exhibitor was not always in such a hurry to see that the film was returned to the Exchange from which it came, so all in all, both distributors and exhibitors have learned to Let George Do It, since film delivery service is his special concern and his business.

DIGEST SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST ENDS AUGUST 31st

World Premiere David and Bathsheba Rivoli Theatre N.Y. Aug. 16

"David and Bathsheba," Darryl F. Zanuck's Technicolor production for 20th Century-Fox, will have its World Premiere at the Rivoli Theatre Thursday, August 16, it was announced by Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and George Skouras, president of United Artist Theatres.

One of the biggest productions undertaken by 20th Century-Fox in years, this stirring romantic drama brings to life the 3,000-year-old love story of King David and Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite. The film also features Raymond Massey as Nathan the Prophet; James Robertson Justice as Abishai; Kieron Moore as Uriah; Dennis Hoey as Joab; Francis X. Bushman as King Saul; Walter Talun as Goliath the giant and six Hollywood beauties who play King David's wives: Jayne Meadows, Ann Camerson, Mildred Brown, Shirley Karnes, Anne Molinari and Mary Ellen Gleason.

Coming from Hollywood to help celebrate the gala premiere will be Gregory Peck, Francis X. Bushman, Walter Talun and Carol Woods, a direct descendant of Bathsheba who is currently touring the country lecturing on behalf of the motion picture.

The 20th Century-Fox film, which has been widely heralded through publicity and extensive advertising in national magazines and periodicals, receives a special advantage by moving into the Rivoli at this time. With thousands of Broadway visitors entering the Rivoli hourly to witness the Civil Defense demonstrations, the theatre management has given Fox permission to set up displays immediately in the inner and outer lobbies and to highlight the opening on the theatre marquee.

Astral Films Releases Turpin Fight in Canada

In a deal secured before the Robinson - Turpin fight in England, Astral Films obtained what turned out to be one of the most sensational fight pictures in many a year. Reacting quickly to this unexpected fistic upset Astral Films had the film in general release in Canada on July 14th, four days before the film was shown in the United States. The Astral deal in Canada was an independent one.

The picture has proved a boxoffice success at Toronto theatres. After a week's first run at two Famous Players' units, the Capitol and Tivoli, the film was immediately transferred to nine neighborhood houses of Bloom & Fine Theatres and also to the independent Biltmore in downtown Toronto, for another week.

The B&F theatres comprised the Century, Eastwood, Vaughan, Beaver, Lansdowne, Bellevue, Donlands, Grover and La Plaza.

VANCOUVER NEWS

JACK DROY

The British Columbia Drive-In Theatre Association at a recent meeting, decided that the buck-a-carload is not good for business, and that admission should be on a person rather than on a car basis; that children should be admitted free up to the age of 12 years. To date only one B.C. outdoor theatre is using the buck-a-carload and there is nothing the association can do about it under present regulations.

New power rates if granted will hike theatres 15 per cent. The B.C. Electric have requested that they be allowed to increase business establishments, stores, theatres and other commercial users. The above increase which will amount to a big sum to theatres, has not been approved by the board to date.

Some progress has been made between the circuits and Projectionists Local 348 on a new wage scale agreement, but nothing has been decided to date. The two major circuits have offered an increase of around 20c an hour. The present scale for the two-man-in-a-booth ranges from $2 to $2.15 an hour. The one-man-in-a-booth proposition which has been a sore point to theatre operators for 15 years is not involved at the moment.

President of the company and manager of the Sunset Drive-In Theatre is Phil Bodnoff, Regina, who is president of Soo Theatres Ltd., Weyburn, Sask., operating the Soo and Hi-Art Theatres there. Assistant manager is Marcus Bloom, who has served as assistant manager at the Rex and Broadway Theatres in Regina. The staff numbers approximately twenty-five.

Vancouver Labor Council has started a campaign for a civic by-law against racial discrimination. The council endorsed a resolution for legislation to prohibit discrimination in all public places, such as amusements, hotels and eating places, on penalty of having their business license suspended. The campaign will be handled by the Vancouver Labor Board.

A check-up of exhibitors in the Pacific North West worked out, "Give us comedies, the family type picture and musicals, as a cure for the boxoffice blues."

Maritime News

By ALICE L. FAIRWEATHER

Spending a few days in Saint John recently have been: George Heiber of United Artists, Toronto, Ont.; Sam Knutski of United Artists, Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Buckley from Montreal, where "Del" is with RKO, having formerly been at the St. John exchange of that company; Eldon Glendenning of the Capitol, Hillsboro, N.B.; J. A. Basha of the Palace Theatre, West Cornerbrook, Nfld.; Reg Pope of the Regent at Summerside, P.E.I.; and Mr. Fownes of the Basque Theatre, Port O' Basque, Nfld.

The first drive-in opened at Springhill, N.B., about six miles from Fredericton with tremendous success. There is a capacity for 400 cars and two hundred motors had to be turned away. "Valley Theatre" is operated by A. J. Burnett and the opening film was Ma and Pa Kettle (Empire-Universal).

Business at Saint John theatres has been at quite a low ebb owing chiefly to the unusually hot weather prevailing. Theatres and Exchanges are working with depleted staffs, as many employees are away on vacation.

Robert Galbraith, manager of the Community Theatre, Yarmouth, N.S., a Franklin-Herschorn theatre, has distinguished himself by winning one of the top prizes offered by a U.S. trade magazine for institutional advertising. The prize included a ten-dollar certificate and Mr. Galbraith is being heartily congratulated. His suggestive slogan was "Maybe you're getting too stale sitting in that rocking chair. Come out and see a good movie."

Jim Mitchell, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Saint John, expects to wind up his vacation period with some deep sea fishing, probably in Nova Scotia.

P. J. Dwyer, manager of the Family Theatre, Halifax, N.S., is a member of that city's Civil Defense Committee.

Film Council Plans Newsreel To Promote Industry

A monthly newsreel, designed to counter false and damaging stories about the motion picture industry was endorsed at the concluding session of the conference between theatre-owners and producers, which was held last week in Hollywood.

The conference held under the auspices of the COMPO, also devoted a day to the study of advertising and exploitation of films, as well as the general state of the industry's public relations.

SHOWMEN! SEND YOUR ENTRIES IN NOW!

CAPITAL STORY

By BILL McLAUGHLIN

The National Film Board has some forty million feet of inflammable and explosive film stored at the John and Sussex street studio vaults, out near Rockcliffe Airport, and in an isolated hanger at Pendleton, Ont. To take care of these valuable records and of future product, government technicians and structural engineers of the Department of Public Works have produced a new vault design which is being tested in a practical manner. United States engineers and members of the American film industry were in Ottawa to attend the tests when a million feet of discarded film was exploded inside the vaults without damage to the eight-inch concrete walls.

An added attraction to the double-feature film bill at the Auto-Sky drive-in theatre on the Prescott Highway Friday night was a huge fireworks display. It was a great treat for about 500 carloads of parents and children in attendance, the latter under twelve being admitted free.

Movie theatres throughout the city and district report big business over the long Civic Holiday weekend. Midnight shows were well attended and the Monday holiday matinee and evening performances drew capacity audiences despite many outdoor sports activities, including football at Lansdowne Park and professional baseball under the floodlights.

Bill Cullum, assistant to manager Ray Tubman at the Capitol Theatre, is holidaying at his favorite fishing spot on Pontiac Bay, Que. Bill, accompanied by his wife and children, will be away for the next two weeks.

Ottawa show circles lost a well-known and popular figure in the death of Frank Gooden. Active until a few months ago, the veteran stage hand was always the first man on deck when called to handle the scenery and props of travelling legitimate troupes. His funeral was largely attended by local theatre managers and union officials.

Thus ends one of the summers' slowest weeks. Outside The Thing at the Regent Theatre, current film programs were below average. No hits, no runs and many errors about sums up Ottawa's front at the moment, with theatre managers planning a start on a brand new season with a Labor Day opening next month.

EDMONTON

Famous Players and their partner Entwisle Theatres Ltd., have just finished completely renovating their 600-seat Princess on Edmonton's south side. This renovation includes a new marquee, box office, candy bar, reseating with Kroeller seats, carpeting and the entire interior repainted.

Johnnie Ferguson, Western Maintenance supervisor for Famous Players, was in town to supervise this work, and to check the progress on Famous Players Paramount now under construction.

Arnold Entwistle has moved to his nine-acre homestead on the city limits, and is reported very happy looking after the chickens and other farm accessories.

On holidays are Bill Wilson of the Garneau and Fred Varlow, assistant manager to Walter Wilson of the Capitol.

Use This Information As Your Guide on Release Dates

TORONTO

IMPERIAL
Alice in Wonderland (RKO) Technicolor.

LOEW'S
Excuse My Dust (MGM) Technicolor with Red Skelton and Sally Forrest.

UPTOWN
Second Week. Francis Goes To The Races (E-U) with Donald O'Connor and Piper Laurie.

SHEA'S & EGLINTON
On Moonlight Bay (Warner) Technicolor with Doris Day and Gordon MacRae.

UNIVERSITY-NORTOWN
Peking Express (Para.) with Joseph Cotten and Corinne Calvet.

ODEON-CARLTON
Second Week. The Prince Who Was A Thief (E-U) Technicolor with Tony Curtis and Piper Laurie.

HYLAND
Thirteenth Week. The Browning Version (JARO) with Michael Redgrave.

VICTORIA
Fabiola (IFD) with Michele Morgan.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
Strictly Dishonorable (MGM) with Enzio Pinza and Janet Leigh.

LOEW'S
Seventh Week. The Great Caruso (MGM) Technicolor with Mario Lanza and Ann Blyth.

PALACE
Kind Lady (MGM) with Ethel Barrymore and Maurice Evans.

SNOWDON-OUTREMONT
Hard, Fast and Beautiful (RKO) with Claire Trevor and Sally Forrest.

PRINCESS
Cyrano de Bergerac (UA) with Jose Ferrer and Mala Powers.

ORPHEUM
Two Of A Kind (Col.) and Pier 23 (Cardinal).

IMPERIAL
The Last Outpost (Para.) Technicolor with Ronald Reagan and Rhonda Fleming.

VANCOUVER

VOGUE
Second Week. Cyrano de Bergerac (UA) with Jose Ferer and Mala Powers.

CAPITOL
Show Boat (MGM) Technicolor with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel.

STRAND
Santa Fe (Col.) and The Big Gusher (Col.)

ORPHEUM
The Frogmen (20th-Fox) with Richard Widmark and Dana Andrews.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
The Painted Hills (MGM) and Go For Broke (MGM).

PLAZA-FRASER
Apache Drums (E-U) and Casa Manana (Mono.)

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
Half Angel (20th-Fox) Technicolor with Loretta Young and Joseph Cotten.

LYCEUM
Inside Straight (MGM) Technicolor with David Brian and Arlene Dahl.

MET
Show Boat (MGM) Technicolor with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel.

ODEON
Second Week. The Prince Who Was A Thief (E-U) Technicolor with Tony Curtis and Piper Laurie.

GAIETY
Fifth Week. The Great Caruso (MGM) Technicolor with Mario Lanza and Ann Blyth.

GARRICK
Only The Valiant (Warner) with Gregory Peck and Barbara Payton.

RIALTO
Sitting Pretty (Para.) and Mr. Belvedere Goes To College (20th-Fox).

VALOUR
The Glass Mountain (JARO) with Valentina Cortesa and Michael Denison.

GRAND
Trigger, Jr. (Rep.) and Million Dollar Pursuit (Rep).

UA's First Legion Gets Montreal Send-off

Canadian premiere of United Artists' inspiring film, "The First Legion," at the Orpheum Theatre, Montreal, received the all-out support of the local clergy representing all religious denominations, according to Irving Herman, Canadian publicity director for UA.

Spiritual leaders of the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches endorsed the film in their Sunday sermons, urging their congregations to see the picture, which they compared to "Bells of St. Mary's," and "Going My Way" for its wholesome entertainment value.

Although the film, based on the famous stage play by Emmett Lavery, is set in a Jesuit seminary, the clerics of all denominations agreed that its message—the miracle of faith—was by no means non-sectarian.

DIGEST SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST ENDS AUGUST 31st

RALLYING CRY!

ATTACK THER!

w fighting spirit's in the air!
w smile's on Showmen's faces!
PASSES THE AMMO... AND
BIG OFFENSIVE IS ON!

e on your way with
ON THE RIVIERA
Technicolor
Danny Kaye's Kay-lossal!

smack 'em with
HALF ANGEL
Technicolor
O in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Atlantic City!

e got what it takes with
E CARE OF MY LITTLE GIRL
Technicolor
ational book! Sensational pre-sold picture.

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THE FROGMEN
Front page news in the
N.Y. Sunday News (June 17th issue)

'em coming with
E MAN WHO CAME BACK
Douglas plus Darnell plus
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Nevil Shute's best-seller—
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